

SOURCES OF LOVE AND HATE

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a psychical significance, erections often being found and masturbation occurring well within the first year. The genital phase begins even at the time when the mental life is mainly under the sway of oral and anal impulses, but does not reach its peak, or impose its own characteristic colouring upon activities and phantasies, until very much later in development.

The dominance of the various zones is a relative matter; it is always the *child* who responds to the breast, or to the situation of evacuation or genital excitement. This can of course be seen by ordinary observation, and it is found to be true in the inner world of phantasy. What one means by "the oral phase" or "the anal phase" is that, in turn, each of these zones provides a nucleus around which a distinctive body of experiences becomes grouped, which lend their predominant character for the time, both to actual responses to the outer world and to inner phantasies. And these nuclei of instinct and resulting experience are to some real extent separate and independent, in the earliest days, although later they become more firmly organised into a stable whole.

In the oral phase, the child not only wants to suck more than anything else in the world, but his mother, in so far as she satisfies this wish, is to him an all-loving and all-beneficent nipple. In such moments of satisfaction, he feels completely identified with her. She and he are one. In the biting phase, the child wants not only more than anything else in the world to bite with his gums upon the breast, chew it up and take it into himself, or destroy it in his teeth with anger when it does not satisfy him, but he also feels

that his mother will do this to him. And that part of his mind which has come to represent his mother, which is in effect his mother inside himself, his super-ego, will bite and chew up and destroy *him*, if he indulges his own biting impulses. In the same way the anal and, later on, the genital phase dominate in their turn activity and phantasy alike.

If development be normal and satisfactory, the genital zone becomes in the end stably dominant over other zones, so that, for example, oral sexual pleasures appear only as one of the normal and minor fore-pleasures of the full sexual act, not as a substitute for it. Development is, however,